

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. FUKUDA SETS BROAD AGENDA FOR VISIT

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA TOLD A PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE THERE WERE NO MAJOR BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN, AND SAID HIS WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WOULD FOCUS ON US-JAPANESE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THERE WERE A BILATERAL PROBLEM IT WOULD BE THAT OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING. FUKUDA SAID HE AGREED WITH US CONCERN ABOUT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT OPPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE EARLIER SUMMITS HAVE HARDLY BEEN STRICTLY BILATERAL, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER HAS TALKED ABOUT WHAT THE US AND JAPAN CAN DO JOINTLY TO RESOLVE WORLDWIDE PROBLEMS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TOKYO 3787, 3/17.)

2. ETHIOPIAN IMBROGLIO: SAUDI POLICY HARDENING

SAUDI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOURI TOLD AMBASSADOR PORTER MARCH 15 THAT SAUDI POLICY TOWARD ETHIOPIA WAS CHANGING IN THE DIRECTION OF FAVORING COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE FOR ERITREA. MANSOURI SAID THIS DEPENDED ON HOW FAR ETHIOPIA MOVED TOWARD THE SOVIET CAMP. HE SAID THE SAUDIS WERE NOT YET COORDINATING THEIR POLICY WITH THE SUDAN ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY SOON DO SO.

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AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THE SAUDIS ARE NOT ON VERY SURE GROUND IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH AFRICA. THEY WELCOME OUR CONSULTATION AND WOULD BE OPEN TO OUR ADVICE. IF WE ARE IN A POSITION TO TELL THEM ANYTHING ABOUT THE LIKELY RESULTS OF SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE OR TO MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REGARD, WE SHOULD DO IT NOW. IF WE DO NOTHING THEIR POLICY WILL EVOLVE TOWARD SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN AND OTHER ETHIOPIAN SEPARATISTS INCLUDING THE ETHIOPIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION. (SECRET) JIDDA 2059, 3/16.)

3. EAST EUROPEANS NOT READY FOR BELGRADE?

THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S EXPERT ON CSCE BASKET III ISSUES, JERZY NOWAK, HAS TOLD EMBASSY WARSAW THERE IS STILL NO COORDINATED EASTERN EUROPEAN APPROACH TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, A MEETING AT THE VICE-MINISTERIAL LEVEL WILL TAKE PLACE IN WARSAW WITHIN THE NEXT THREE WEEKS TO DEVELOP STRATEGY. NOWAK SAID THAT AT BELGRADE THE SOVI-

ETS ARE LIKELY TO:

--PUSH HARD DURING PREPARATORY TALKS FOR A CAREFUL
LISTING OF TOPICS FOR THE MAIN CONFERENCE;

--TRY TO SET A TIME LIMIT ON THE CONFERENCE;

--OPPOSE OPEN PLENARY SESSIONS; AND

--WANT TO TALK MOSTLY ABOUT THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH
BASKET I AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES. (CONFIDEN-
TIAL) WARSAW 1871, 3/16.)

4. POLISH PRESS CAMPAIGN PUZZLES FRG

EMBASSY BONN REPORTS THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS WORRIED
AND PUZZLED BY THE CURRENT POLISH PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST
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THE FRG. EARLIER POLISH COMPLAINTS ABOUT WEST GERMAN
COURT DECISIONS AND CITIZENSHIP AND EMIGRE CASES DID NOT

ALARM THE FOREIGN OFFICE BECAUSE ALL WERE MADE PRIVATELY.
HOWEVER, THE POLES HAVE NOW REPEATED THE CRITICISMS
PUBLICLY.

WEST GERMAN DIPLOMATS ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT POLAND'S MOTIVES
FOR THE CAMPAIGN. WHILE THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS DETERMINED
TO REACT CALMLY AND TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
FRG/POLISH RELATIONS, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE VISITS
OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT,
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY,
WILL SLIP. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 4726, 3/16 AND (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) WARSAW 1763, 3/11.)

5. ITALY: THE DILEMMA OF RESPONSIBILITY

EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT RECENT STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN
ITALIAN CITIES HAVE JANGLED THE NERVES OF THE ITALIAN COM-
MUNIST PARTY (PCI). THE RECENT MEETING OF THE PARTY'S
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HELD AMID SIGNS OF A SERIOUS DECLINE
IN COMMUNIST CONTROL OF ITALY'S STUDENT MOVEMENT, ILLUS-
TRATES THE DILEMMA FACING THE PCI AS IT CONTINUES TO
OCCUPY AN AMBIVALENT ROLE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSI-
TION. IN A CONVOLUTED OFFICIAL EXEGESIS, PCI PROPAGANDA
CHIEF BUFALINI TOLD THE MEETING THAT:

--EXTREMISTS, EVEN ONES CALLING THEMSELVES COMMU-
NISTS, ARE ADVERSARIES OF THE PCI;

--THE POLICE, WHATEVER THEIR HISTORICAL ROLE VIS-A-
VIS THE PROLETARIAT, ARE NOT; AND
VIS THE PROLETARIAT, ARE NOT; AND
THE PCI REJECTS IDEAS OF ARMED SELF-DEFENSE BY THE
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MASSES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PCI HAS CLEARLY BEEN STUNG. ITS
LEADERS KNOW THEIR COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT ARE

LOSING THEM SUPPORT ON THE LEFT, AND WE EXPECT THE PARTY
LINE TOWARD THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO HARDEN IN THE DAYS
AHEAD. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 4325, 3/16.)

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